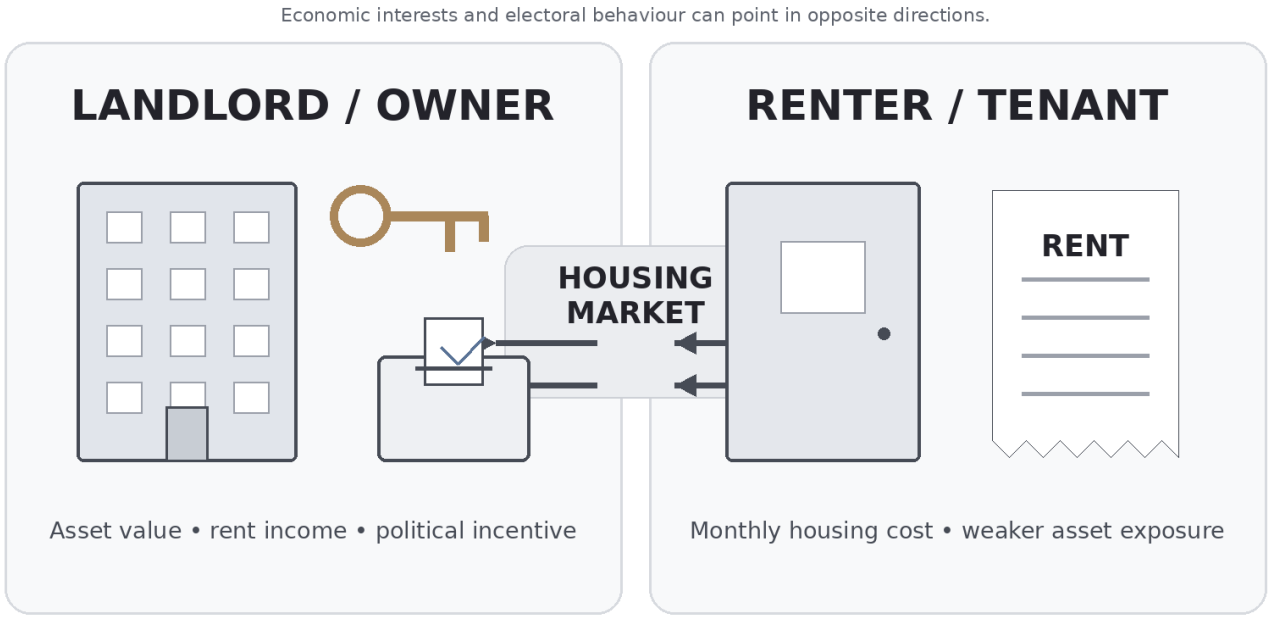
The Housing–Migration Electoral Paradox

A conceptual note on housing interests, migration and voting behaviour

Xema Gatnau

ORIGINAL TWEET / TRIGGER

Wall Street Mav (@WallStreetMav): *"I am no math genius, but I think food and apartment rental prices would go down if we deport 20 million people."*



THE CONCEPT

The paradox concerns a possible mismatch between material housing interests and electoral behaviour. Where population growth adds to housing demand, landlords may benefit from higher rents or asset values, while tenants may face higher housing costs. Yet the beneficiaries' financial stake can be more concentrated and visible, making them more likely to understand and act politically on that relationship, whereas renters may be less likely to connect their housing costs with migration policy or to vote on that basis. The paradox is therefore one of asymmetric economic incentives and political awareness.

CONCEPT FORMULATION

> The clear paradox here is that those who understand this often own apartments to rent out and vote accordingly—or bribe those who would otherwise accelerate deportations. By contrast, those who don't realize it usually don't own rental properties; they rent them, yet they don't vote accordingly, through ignorance or lack of awareness.

Proposed conceptual label; not presented here as an established academic term. The housing-price effect is context-dependent and is not a claim that migration is the sole determinant of rents.